

# TRENDS ANALYSIS: HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

FALL 2015



## What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the proportion of students who graduate, with a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation or British Columbia Adult Graduation Diploma, within six years from the first time they enrol in Grade 8 (adjusted for migration in and out of B.C.). Six-year completion rates are reported by the Ministry of Education at the [school district](#) and [provincial level](#), and combine public and independent schools. There are 109 public schools and 14 independent schools in the Basin-Boundary region. Six-year completion rates are reported for all students, as well as for male, female, Aboriginal, English Language Learning, and Special Needs students.

Education is a key social determinant of health (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2013). High school completion rates indicate how successful our families, schools, and communities are in supporting youth in achieving high school graduation. High school graduation is now the minimum education level for most employment options, and therefore an important foundation for positive work place conditions and future employment success and well-being (Mikkonen & Raphael, 2010). High school completion is important to ensure that citizens have the basic skills to participate actively in society.

## What are the trends & current conditions?

The average high school completion rate from 2006 to 2014 is above the provincial average for four of the seven districts in our region. As shown in Table 1, Revelstoke consistently shows higher completion rates than the provincial level, along with Boundary for all but the 2012/13 school year. Revelstoke, Boundary, and Arrow Lakes have completion rates of 90% and higher in at least two of the years. Kootenay Lake shows completion rates lower than the provincial average for the past seven years. Other districts show variability in completion rates with some years higher than the B.C. average and some lower. Visit the [Digital Basin](#) for a region wide map of this data (Education & Learning, Social pillar).

Percent High School Completion Rate for All Students									
District	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Average 2006-14
<b>Southeast Kootenay (School District 5)</b>	81.5	84.2	74.2	80.8	75.0	76.9	79.4	77.7	<b>78.7</b>
<b>Kootenay Lake (School District 8)</b>	80.3	75.5	77.8	74.0	76.0	78.5	75	76.6	<b>76.7</b>
<b>Kootenay-Columbia (School District 20)</b>	82.2	78.7	82.8	83.9	80.1	77.4	83.9	80.5	<b>81.2</b>
<b>Rocky Mountain (School District 6)</b>	82	85.7	78.0	79.3	81.3	78.8	76.5	79.2	<b>80.1</b>
<b>Revelstoke (School District 19)</b>	82.6	80.2	88.2	97.9	87.4	88.4	90.1	86.1	<b>87.6</b>
<b>Arrow Lakes (School District 10)</b>	90.9	75.1	84.5	88.1	93.7	92.2	82.6	90.3	<b>87.2</b>
<b>Boundary (School District 51)</b>	81.1	84	83.8	85.4	94.2	93.7	82.1	85.2	<b>86.2</b>
<b>BC Schools</b>	80.1	78.8	79.2	79.7	81.0	81.8	83.6	84.2	<b>81.1</b>

Table 1: High school completion rates and average from 2006 – 2014, by School District  
Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2015

Table 2 shows the average percent completion rate of students whether female, male, Aboriginal, or Special Needs over the last five school years (2009/10 to 2013/14). Completion rates are consistently higher for females than males. Arrow Lakes shows the highest completion rate for females with 95% on average. Revelstoke shows the highest completion rate for males with 88.9%, while Kootenay Lake shows the lowest completion rate for males at 75.1%.

Average high school completion rates for Aboriginal students are generally lower, although Boundary shows the highest completion rate at 80.2%. Special Needs students' completion rates are the lowest with the lowermost at 52.1% in Kootenay-Columbia and the uppermost in Boundary at 69.6%. Data for English Language Learners (ELL) was only available for Kootenay Lake, which shows an average of 37.2% completion, and for Rocky Mountain, which has a 69% completion rate on average for ELL students.

Average High School Completion Rates by Student Type (2009/10 to 2013/14)				
District	Average % completion for females	Average % completion for males	Average % completion for Aboriginal students	Average % completion for Special Needs students
Southeast Kootenay (School District 5)	80.6	75.5	65.7	59.5
Kootenay Lake (School District 8)	77.0	75.1	67.0	56.0
Kootenay-Columbia (School District 20)	83.1	79.32	60.8	52.1
Rocky Mountain (School District 6)	80.5	77.8	69.3	55.6
Revelstoke (School District 19)	89.9	88.9	75.6	74.24
Arrow Lakes (School District 10)	95.0	84.0	68.5*	69.4**
Boundary (School District 51)	91.2	85.2	80.2	69.6

**Table 2: Average high school completion rates by student type, by district, 2009 – 2014**

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2015

\* based on 2008/09 and 2013/14 school years (only data available)

\*\* based on 2008/09 – 2010/11

### References

BC Ministry of Education. (2015). District Reports. Retrieved from <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district.php>.

Mikkonen, J., & Raphael, D. (2010). *Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts*. Toronto: York University School of Health Policy and management.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2013). *What Makes Canadians Healthy or Unhealthy?* Retrieved March 17, 2013, from Public Health Agency of Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/determinants-eng.php>.



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